

January 9, 2012
Contact: Diana Palotas
Monroe County District Attorney's Office
47 South Fitzhugh Street
Rochester, NY 14614
(585) 753-4532 office
(585) 314-1046 cell
dpalotas@monroecounty.gov

Monroe County District Attorney's Office Leads New York State In Recovery of Fraudulent Unemployment Insurance Claims

Today, Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley and Economic Crime Bureau Chief Mark Monaghan announced that last year, the Monroe County District Attorney's office led New York State in recovering fraudulently obtained unemployment insurance benefits. In 2011, \$172,567 was recovered in Monroe County on behalf of the New York State Department of Labor, \$22,000 more than any other county in the state.

Prosecutors in the District Attorney's Office work in conjunction with investigators from the Department of Labor and the New York State Police to identify those engaging in fraudulent activities, and hold them accountable. Those arrested are charged with felony offenses, and for filing false claims with the State. Restitution of stolen funds is ordered upon conviction, and sentences involving jail or prison time may be ordered.

"Unemployment benefits are designed to help those who genuinely want to work and earn a living, but are struggling in these hard economic times," said Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley. "Unemployment insurance fraud impacts those who receive Unemployment Insurance Benefits, as well as hard working taxpayers who pay into the system."

"Thanks to our partners in law enforcement, we're sending a message that stealing taxpayer funds will not be tolerated. I'm proud of the successes we've had in reclaiming the funds, and bringing those responsible for committing fraud to justice. I look forward to continuing our partnership with the New York State Police and the New York State Department of Labor to build on this success in the coming year," continued Doorley.

"This accomplishment is a direct result of the collaboration between the Monroe County District Attorney's office and the investigative teams at the New York State Department of

Labor and the New York State Police,” said Assistant District Attorney Mark Monaghan, Deputy Chief of the Supreme Court Bureau. “Those who commit fraud will be held accountable. Our success working on behalf of this community to prosecute fraudulent action against taxpayers is a model of collaboration in pursuit of justice across the state,” continued Monaghan.

In the last three years, convictions for unemployment insurance fraud by the Monroe County District Attorney’s office have led to the recovery of nearly \$400,000 in taxpayer funds.

###